



Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR)
Nebraska Supreme Court
Juvenile and Child Welfare Conferencing*
Rev. 2016



*Per LB464 (2014) AUTHORIZED TO BE ORDERED BY Nebraska's County and Juvenile Court Judges
CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCING
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> FGC: (Family group conferencing): This research -based child and family-centered approach may be used at any stage of the child welfare process. FGC Coordinators proficient in working with complex family dynamics in children and youth matters individually meet with, prepare, and engage family, extended family, and a network of others to create a meaningful and accountable child and family plan to address the critical issues confronting the safety, welfare, and well-being of the children. Private family time is an essential component of the decision-making process.
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> PHC: (Pre-hearing conference facilitation – initial removal): Scheduled by the juvenile court immediately preceding the initial protective custody hearing, knowledgeable child welfare facilitators assist in facilitating a brief (30-45 minute) conference to address key preliminary safety and permanency issues with parents, child welfare workers, attorneys, guardians ad litem.
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> PHPR: (Pre-hearing conference facilitation – twelve month permanency review): Optimally scheduled 60 days prior to twelve-month permanency review court hearing, this court-ordered off-site facilitated prehearing conference requires the parents, child welfare workers, attorneys, and GALs to confront critical progress for either reunification or other permanency decisions and action steps for the future of the child.
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> PHTPR: (Facilitated prehearing conference of termination of parental rights matters): Experienced, proficient facilitators in the matters of TPR, conflict dynamics, and future welfare of the child prepares and facilitates a conference of parents, county attorney, parents' attorneys, GALs and other professionals to confront the critical child permanency issues and determine next steps, including a consideration of relinquishment as well as contested trial, in a termination of parental rights matter.
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> CWM: (Child welfare mediation): A small, one-to-one private mediation session(s) between family members and providers, parent and foster parent, or family members themselves to work on solving problems that are a barrier to the child's and family's progress in the case.
CHILD WELFARE <input type="checkbox"/> CWF: (Child welfare facilitation): A flexible multi-party facilitation convening parents and key stakeholders to unravel conflicts and set a better course direction for the child, parents, and care givers. The CWF may be strategically appropriate at different times throughout the child welfare court case outside of scheduled court hearings. The CWF may be used when the issues don't rise to the level of need of a family group conference.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCING

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☐ **Juvenile Victim Offender Conferencing:** An evidenced-based facilitated dialogue between a juvenile law violator and the victim of a criminal act. The process can be used to resolve restitution questions and identify the needs of the juvenile, the victim, and the community in repairing the harm. This process tends to produce results such as reduced recidivism rates, and increased likelihood of restitution payments being made. VOC also provides the victim of juvenile crimes with the ability to be involved in the outcome in a way that is not harmful to the process or the juvenile, leading to grater compliance with orders and satisfaction with the system.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

☐ **EFGC: (Expedited family group conference):** A family group conference specially created for use in Nebraska juvenile justice cases for addressing the youth's need for an immediate placement change.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

☐ **Conflict Mediation:** A one-to-one private mediation session to resolve conflict between the youth, their family, or parties related to the juvenile's probation matter.

* LB464 Sec. 10. Section 43-247.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

(1) In any juvenile case, the court may provide the parties the opportunity to address issues involving the child's care and placement, services to the family, restorative justice, and other concerns through facilitated conferencing or mediation. Facilitated conferencing may include, but is not limited to, prehearing conferences, family group conferences, expedited family group conferences, child welfare mediation, permanency prehearing conferences, termination of parental rights prehearing conferences, and juvenile victim-offender dialogue. Funding and management for such services will be part of the office of the State Court Administrator. All discussions taking place during such facilitated conferences, including plea negotiations, shall be considered confidential and privileged communications, except communications required by mandatory reporting under section 28-711 for new allegations of child abuse or neglect which were not previously known or reported.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) Expedited family group conference means an expedited and limited-scope facilitated planning meeting which engages a child's or juvenile's parents, the child or juvenile when appropriate, other critical family members, services providers, and staff members from either the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Probation Administration to address immediate placement issues for the child or juvenile;

(b) Family group conference means a facilitated meeting involving a child's or juvenile's family, the child or juvenile when appropriate, available extended family members from across the United States, other significant and close persons to the family, service providers, and staff members from either the Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Probation Administration to develop a family-centered plan for the best interests of the child and to address the essential issues of safety, permanency, and well-being of the child;

(c) Juvenile victim-offender dialogue means a court-connected process in which a facilitator meets with the juvenile offender and the victim in an effort to convene a dialogue in which the offender takes responsibility for his or her actions and the victim is able to address the offender and request an apology and restitution, with the goal of creating an agreed-upon written plan; and

(d) Prehearing conference means a facilitated meeting prior to appearing in court and held to gain the cooperation of the parties, to offer services and treatment, and to develop a problem-solving atmosphere in the best interests of children involved in the juvenile court system. A prehearing conference may be scheduled at any time during the child welfare or juvenile court process, from initial removal through permanency, termination of parental rights, and juvenile delinquency court processes.